

1	2	3
5.	Destination development of Rameshwaram	426.42
6.	Destination development of Kodaikanal	470.19
7.	Destination development of Madurai	478.03
8.	Integrated development of Arupadai Veedugal (Murugan Temple circuit) on the sector Palani-Madurai-Trichendur-Swamimalai-Tiruttani	798.97

Promotion of tourism in West Bengal

3010. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of tourism related projects being implemented by Government in West Bengal;

(b) whether Government have not promoted vigorously various places of tourist interest in West Bengal, abroad through the foreign tourist offices;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of foreign tourists, visited West Bengal during the last three years; and

(e) the steps being taken to promote West Bengal as a tourist attraction both within and outside the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) In the year 2006-07, an amount of Rs.355.49 lakh has been sanctioned for the project 'Creation/setting up tourism infrastructural facilities at Goke under Destination Development', Rs.498.38 lakh for the project 'Development of Kalimpong under Destination Development' and Rs.388.98 lakh for the project 'Tea Tourism Circuit in North Bengal'.

A list of projects sanctioned for the State of West Bengal during the Tenth Plan period is given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(b) to (e) The Ministry of Tourism, through its indiatourism offices in India and abroad, undertakes a series of promotional activities in tourist generating markets overseas and in the country, in order to attract tourists to the various historical, cultural and heritage sites in the country including those in West Bengal. These activities include advertising participation in

fairs and exhibitions, organizing seminars, workshops and road shows, publication of brochures and joint advertisement support, and inviting media personalities, tour operators and opinion makers to visit the country under the Hospitality Programme of the Ministry.

A specific domestic promotion and publicity campaign for States in the eastern region, including West Bengal, called the Eastern India campaign was run by the Ministry in the year 2005-06.

Details of foreign tourists who visited West Bengal during the last three years are as follows:—

Year	Foreign tourists
2003	705457
2004	775694
2005	895639

Statement

Projects/Schemes sanctioned to the State of West Bengal during Tenth Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1	2	3
2002-03		
1.	Development of Darjeeling as a Tourist Destination.-	201.10
(i)	Integrated Development of Shrubbery Nightingale Park, Darjeeling-Rs. 145.17 lakh	
(ii)	Illumination of Historical Monuments, Darjeeling- Rs.39.47 lakh	
(iii)	Beautification and construction of View Points near Peshok Wayside Inn, Darjeeling-Rs.7.68 lakh	
(iv)	Beautification and construction of View Point near Dilaram Wayside Inn, Darjeeling-Rs.6.42 lakh	
(v)	Car Park below Silver Fir, Darjeeling-Rs.2.36 lakh	
TOTAL		201.10

1	2	3
2003-04		
1.	Repair of Bathing Ghats and fencing of the area of River Hooghly in front of Sri Sharda Math, Dakshineswar in Kolkata	62.82
2.	Development of Rural Tourism Centre at Shantiniketan	50.00
3.	Development of Bishnupur, Distt Bankura as a tourist destination	324.38
4.	Development of Park at Mouza-Daknikata near Siliguri	161.00
5.	Development of Dakshineswar Kali Temple Complex, Kolkata	132.24
6.	West Bengal Tourism Festival, 2003	5.00
7.	Durga Puja	15.00
8.	Bishnupur Mela	3.00
9.	Financial assistance to Ramakrishna Mission, Kolkata for maintenance and development of Swami Vivekananda's ancestral house and cultural centre	100.00
10.	Development of Rural Tourism Centre at Ballabhpur Danga, Distt. Birbhum	50.00
	TOTAL	903.44
2004-05		
1.	Development of Rangbhang as a Tourist Spot (near Mirik) under Destination Development	171.54
2.	Extension and beautification of Rohini Lake at Rohini Tourist Complex, Kurseong under Destination Development	218.50
3.	West Bengal Tourism Festival, 2004	5.00
4.	Darjeeling Carnival, 2004	8.00
5.	West Bengal Mahotsav, 2004	10.00
6.	Teesta and Torsha Tourism Festival, 2005	5.00
7.	Bishnupur Mela, 2004	5.00
8.	Development of village Sonada in Darjeeling Distt.	50.00
9.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Mukutmonipur in Bankura Distt.	20.00
10.	GOI-UNDP Endogenous Tourism Project at village Ballabhpur Danga, Birbhum District	20.00
	TOTAL	513.04

1	2	3
2005-06		
1.	Redevelopment/Restoration of Kalighat Temple Complex/area at Kolkata for 21st Centenary	500.00
2.	Development of Tourism at Cooch-Behar City (Distt. Cooch Behar)	475.00
3.	West Bengal Tourism Festival, 2006	4.35
4.	Mahotsav 2005 at Kolkata	5.00
5.	18th Bishnupur Mela, 2005	5.00
	TOTAL	989.35
2006-07		
1.	Integrated Development of "Tea Tourism Circuit" in North Bengal	388.98
2.	Setting up of a Night-Safari Park at Jorepokhari in Darjeeling, West Bengal under LRG Scheme-Preparation of Feasibility Report	15.00
3.	Development of Kalimpong under Destination Development	498.38
4.	Creation/setting up tourism infrastructural facilities at Goke under Destination Development	355.49
	TOTAL	1257.85

Shortage of rooms for tourists

3011. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Indian tourism industry has been facing a problem due to shortage of rooms in various cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have asked the house owners not to provide accommodation to tourist; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The tourism industry is facing a shortage of hotel rooms, especially